

"Marry the Poor Girl"

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A gay house party was in full swing at the Paddington's beautiful Long Island estate when Julia Paddington at last said Yes to Bradley Littlefield's proposal, and Jack Tanner won the heart and hand of Ann Winstead. In a playful chase with Ann through the garden, Jack fell into the fountain.

Tom Harrison shared with him a hidden cache of liquor to prevent a cold from his night ducking, and the two staggered in after the entire household had retired. Jack mistook Julia's room for his, stumbled into the bathtub and stayed there for the night.

The next morning he was seen emerging from Julia's room by her mother, father, Tom and Kitty Porter, the champion scandal-monger of Long Island. To save Julia's reputation, they promised to keep it a secret.

But, in spite of the fact that Kitty said she thought it was the sort of thing her mother would not like her to talk about, she lost no time in breaking the news to Ann and Bradley, who were stunned at the apparent perfidy of their sweethearts. A maid overheard and telephoned the scandal to neighboring servants.

Mrs. Paddington, a woman who always had her own way, decided the only amends Jack could make was to marry the poor girl, so she summoned a minister. To her, the fact that this marriage would make four people miserable was nothing compared with the scandal it would avert.

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Tom, well meaning but bungling, asked Rose, a chorus girl, to pose as Jack's wife. She refused, but later changed her mind, and turned up at the Paddington's, announcing herself as Mrs. Jack Tanner. As Jack and Julia were already married, this started a fresh commotion.

No one believed Jack but Julia, whose eyes had been opened, in her sorry predicament, to certain traits in her ex-fiance that she did not like, and in Jack's ^{to} quality of trust and faith that she greatly admired. In the midst of the argument Tom ushered in another "wife" for Jack— a buxom creature with two husky children. That gave the trick away.

Jack was not allowed to leave the house, for if they were married and parted on the same day, it would make more scandal. He and Julia plotted a divorce, she declaring it was what she wanted most in the world. Rose was accordingly engaged to "compromise" Jack, and Julia and her father were to be witnesses.

What Julia saw suddenly stirred her to unsuspected jealousy, and Jack made the astounding discovery that Julia had all the qualities he admired in a wife and had found lacking, in his misfortune, in Ann. No one saw them steal out of the house and take a train for New York City, and all remained in ignorance until receipt of a telegram from Julia reading, "I have decided to remain Mrs. Jack Tanner."

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